Supreme Council for Women
Kingdom of Bahrain
(2001 – 2016)

Website: www.scw.bh  Social Media: @scwbahrain
A New Beginning in the Journey of Bahraini Women

The work for the advancement of Bahraini women has witnessed a new beginning with Royal initiatives that have contributed to increased representation of Bahraini women. This began with the launch of the national reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, in November 2001, where the gains of women started to thrive.

The order number (37) for the year (2000) was issued in 22 November 2000, regarding the establishment of the committee in charge of drafting the National Action Charter, which consisted of 46 members including 6 women (Shaikha Lulwa bint Mohamed Al-Khalifa, Dr. Shaikha Mariam bint Hasan Al-Khalifa, Mrs. Lulwa Saleh Al-Awadhi, Dr. Bahiya Jawad Al-Jishi, Mrs. Fatima Hasan Jawad and Dr. Nada Abbas Hafadh). That marked the first time Bahraini women were included in official committees.

Following the vote for the National Action Charter (98.4%), His Majesty the King issued in 24 February 2001, Decree number (6) for the year (2001) regarding the establishment of the committee in charge of implementing the National Action Charter, which aims at reviewing all the laws and national legislations, along with proposing amendments and mechanisms for the implementation of the Charter’s principles. The committee was formed by the Cabinet’s decision number (15) for the year 2001, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy
Supreme Commander and First Deputy of the Prime Minister, and consisted of 16 members including 2 women.

Therefore, the National Action Charter is considered one of the most important and prominent basic principles assuring the rights of Bahraini women and reflected in the constitutional amendments in 2002, through defined texts, including the following texts:

- The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain: Article (5) paragraph (B): “The state grants the opportunity for women to balance between their family duties and societal work, along with the equality of women and men in the political, social, cultural and economic life aspects, without prejudice to the rulings of Islamic Sharia”.

- The law on the political rights issued via the decree number (14) for the year (2002): Article (1) states the following: Citizens – men and women – enjoy the following political rights:
  1. Express the opinion on every referendum conducted as per the rulings of the Constitutions.
  2. Elect the members of the Nuwab Council (Council of Representatives).
The establishment of the Supreme Council for Women coincided with the preliminary initiatives and the pioneering role of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, Wife of the King of Bahrain, following the conduction of a series of consultation meetings at Al-Rawdha Palace, with Bahraini women activists and representatives of Women Associations and Civil Society Organizations, with the aim of discussing the nature of the suggested establishment to become an organization specialized in the affairs of Bahraini women.
Therefore, the Royal Order number (44) for the year (2001), of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa was issued regarding the establishment of the Supreme Council for Women – as an organization that reports directly to His Majesty the King – and is considered the reference for women’s affairs to all official organizations. It expresses views and decides on the issues related to the status of women directly or indirectly. All official organizations must consult with the Supreme Council for Women before taking any action or decision in this regard.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King chairs the council, which includes 16 members of public women figures experienced in women’s affairs and represent all sectors of Bahraini society. By Royal Order the appointment of the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women in the rank of a Minister was issued, as the first appointment of a woman in ministerial ranking in the Gulf region in 2001.

### Duties and Responsibilities

- Propose public policy in the field of developing women’s affairs in constitutional and civil organizations.
- Enable women to carry out their role in public life and integrate their efforts into comprehensive development programs, without discriminating against them.
- Formulate a national plan for the advancement of women as well as solve the problems they face in all areas.
- To put into effect, the principles of the National Action Charter and the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, regarding women’s affairs, and to set suitable mechanisms in cooperation with the ministries, governmental institutions and civil society organizations.
- To follow-up and evaluate the implementation of public policies regarding women’s affairs and to provide proposals and comments to the relevant institutions in that regard.
- Put forward proposals for amending existing legislations related to women and express views on draft laws and decisions dealing with women before they are submitted to the concerned authority. It can also recommend draft laws and decisions required for the advancement of the status of women.
- Follow up the enforcement of international laws, resolutions and agreements regarding women, in order to ensure their implementation
without discrimination against women. It also follows up the implementation of women-related programs included in the government plans.

- To take part of the official governmental committees and commissions, related to women, in direct and indirect ways.
- Represent Bahraini women in Arab and International forums and organizations concerned with women’s affairs as well as enter into agreements of joint cooperation and programs with these organizations.
- Raise the society’s awareness on the role of women, their rights and duties through the use of appropriate procedures.

**National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women**

- **Preparation Phase (2001-2004)**

The Supreme Council for Women is one of the official entities which developed since the first cycle (2001-2004) a National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, in partnership and cooperation with the governmental entities and civil society organizations related to women’s affairs.
Establishment of Permanent Committees

The strategy's preparation phase started with the establishment of 10 specialized committees including representatives and specialists from all the ministries and governmental entities, along with private sector entities and civil society organizations, and representatives of international organizations in the Kingdom of Bahrain. These committees formed the basis for the pillars of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women.

The National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women was approved by His Majesty the King, as the first strategy in charge of women's affairs to be approved by a head of state in the Arab world.

The National Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy on the Advancement of Bahraini Women:

The specialized committees translated the National Strategy into an executive plan including 7 main pillars (decision-making, economic empowerment, family stability, civil society, education, health and environment). This strategy
is considered a pledge on which the Council has adopted as their work method. After that, the Supreme Council for Women implemented its priorities progressively, which focused on the pillars of family stability, economic and political empowerment, along with awareness and training programs with regards to the other pillars.

During that phase, the Supreme Council for Women conducted several awareness and training programs to develop the capabilities and skills of women, and sign Memorandums of Understandings, as the mechanism for implementing the cooperation with the ministries and governmental entities to implement the National Plan. This was in addition to launching initiatives and awards to encourage the support of women empowerment programs in ministries and governmental entities and private sector entities.

The Award of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa for the Empowerment of Bahraini Women is considered one of the pioneering initiatives with regards to supporting the principle of equal opportunities. It included ambitious criteria to achieve the principles of competitiveness and sustainability and the constitutional principle which granted the right of women to balance between their family duties and societal work.

**Award Objectives:**

- Encourage the ministries and the governmental and private entities to support and empower working Bahraini Women.
- Integrate women in the national development plans.
- Achieve highest levels in terms of women reaching leadership and executive positions and decision makings posts.
- Ensure the commitment of the ministries and governmental and private entities with regards to policies of non-discrimination against women.

This award succeeded in achieving an impact for the work of the Supreme Council for Women through the increase in the percentage of participation, and the advancement of women in leadership positions and decision making posts.
National Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women

The work method of the Supreme Council for Women relies upon continuous evaluation, to cope with the progress regarding the status of women, and its role as a consultative entity reporting to His Majesty the King. Therefore, the Supreme Council for Women started an objective evaluation process in 2012 based on systematic mechanisms, through studying and analyzing what was actually achieved, as well as highlighting the challenges and obstacles, in addition to the national ownership of its concepts. This process was done based on partnerships and building alliances, to assure mainstreaming women's needs in development and measuring impact.

- National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women

The Supreme Council for Women (SCW) launched the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022), with the royal approval of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa. This plan consists of 5 impacts, aiming to assure family stability for women, in the context of family bonds. Also, to empower women to enable them to meet development competency requirements, based on the principle of equal opportunities and mainstreaming women’s needs in development. This will lead women to excel with their quality of life and lifelong learning, through interdependence with
partners and allies in institutional work, enabling the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) to become a national center for expertise, specialized in women’s affairs.

The SCW moved from the strategic vision of advancing women to the advancement of women through partnerships for a competitive and sustainable society.
### Phases of Progress Achieved with regards to Work Methods and Institutional Maturity at SCW

“Activation of Qualitative Specializations”

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<td>• Knowledge based management method</td>
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<td>• Developing national expertise in women affairs</td>
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<td>• Provision of consultations and development of capacities in women affairs</td>
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<td>• Following up on the national efforts for the advancement of women</td>
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<td>• Partnership to coordinate efforts for the advancement of women</td>
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<td>• The national plan for mainstreaming women’s needs in development</td>
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<td>• The method of making an impact</td>
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<td>• Presenting SCW as a reference and a house of expertise in women’s affairs</td>
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<td>• Women affairs work based on strategic thinking</td>
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<td>• Presenting examples of development women related programs and projects</td>
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<td>• Women empowerment</td>
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The phase of mainstreaming women’s needs and raising awareness with regards to equal opportunities started with conducting conferences and forums to adopt these concepts and approve the adequate mechanisms to mainstream women’s needs in the development path. The national model for mainstreaming the needs of Bahraini women in the development path was launched in 2010 as a pioneering mechanism in the Arab world, with specified pillars (themes). In 2013, an improved version of the model was launched consisting of four key themes: policies, budgets, knowledge management and measure of impact. The SCW started to implement the policies theme through:

- **Establishing equal opportunity committees/ units**: The Civil Service Bureau issued a resolution in 2013 to establish permanent committees in the governmental entities called “equal opportunity committees”, chaired by undersecretary or higher ranked personnel.
• **Women’s needs responsive budgets:** Partnership with the Ministry of Finance to publish circulations to ensure that governmental entities implement women’s needs responsive budgets.

Mechanisms of Implementing the National Model for Mainstreaming Women’s Needs:

• A Royal Order was issued to establish the National committee in Charge of Following up on the Implementation of the National Model for Mainstreaming Women’s Needs in the Governmental Work Plan, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa.

• A decision was issued by Her Royal Highness the President of the Supreme Council for Women to create a coordination committee between the SCW and the legislative authority to follow up on the implementation of the model.
The SCW was able to integrate the national plan in the governmental work plan for the period (2015-2018) through cooperating with the Economic Development Board (EDB), which was approved by the Council of Representatives in the fourth legislative term in January 2015.

**Empowerment of Bahraini women and increasing their contribution to the development process:**

- Effective coordination with the Supreme Council for Women to implement the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women 2013-2022.
- Following up and addressing women’s issues and mainstreaming their needs in development programs, to ensure the sustainability of family stability and family bonds.
- Improve services provided to violated women in order to rehabilitate them.
The Supreme Council for Women launched a series of training programs for a number of projects aiming to providing women with the skills required to be able to manage micro projects or becoming entrepreneurs to contribute to decreasing the number of unemployed women, and increase their contribution in the national economy. The most prominent projects are:

- Improving the hospitality project.
- Transportation project (Tawseel).
- Designing project.
- Instant translation project.
- Photography project.
- Women empowerment in media and communications.
- Training the visual impaired women to use computer.

The SCW continued with partnerships to complete the economic work system through providing projects offering consultation services and facilitations to support the sustainability for the economic empowerment programs for women as follows:
• Women Development Center (Riyadat): a center that provides economic incubators offering all the administrative, investment, training and technical services needed by women to become entrepreneurs.

• The financial fund of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa to support and finance the commercial activities of Bahraini women. This is one of the initiatives providing loans and facilitated financing services for entrepreneurs, managed by Ebdaa Bank for micro financing, with the support of Tamkeen (Labor Fund).

• Bahraini Women Development Fund for Commercial Activity “Riyadat” is an initiative that offers loans to women entrepreneurs of small to medium sized businesses and is managed by Bahrain Development Bank and supported by Tamkeen (Labor Fund).
The establishment of Women’s Support Center – started as women’s complaints units, in coordination with complaints offices in all the governorates in 2004 – to complete the services system which the SCW provided to Bahraini women, in the context of the efforts to meet the needs of women through receiving the complaints of Bahraini women and non-Bahraini women married to Bahraini men, and to contribute to solve their problems through the available tools and mechanisms. The center offers the following services:

- Provision of free legal advice in Sharia based cases (Alimony, divorce and custody).
- Provision of free legal advice in civil cases related to marriage.
- Provision of free legal advice (Sharia based – civil – criminal – labor)
- Provision of social services (preventive – therapeutic – family guidance)
- Preparing amicable agreements between the two parties to grant the family stability and preparing safe divorce settlements.
- Help widowed, divorced and abandoned custodian women to obtain housing services in coordination with the Ministry of Housing.
- Addressing the problems of Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini, related to her children not obtaining the Bahraini nationality.
- Building the capacities of Bahraini women through training and awareness programs related to economic, political and family issues, in order to provide her with the required skills, to empower her in public life.
The political empowerment program started with the preparation period for the elections of 2002. This was demonstrated through a series of field visits with Bahraini women by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, President of the SCW, in October 2002 to mosques and other venues of worship in the five governorates.
Resulting in the increase of the percentage of women’s participation in the elections. In preparation for the 2006 elections, the General-Secretariat of the SCW finalized a comprehensive program for the political empowerment of women under the title “Together we build the country”, conducted in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The program focused on providing a technical support kit including intensified training for every woman willing to participate in the political life.

After evaluating the experience of 2002 and 2006, the political empowerment program was built to support the participation of women in the elections of 2010, based on 3 key themes: awareness, partnership and qualitative training. This was implemented through national expertise and was able to achieve significant success in the supplementary elections with the success of 4 women in the elected council.
In preparation for the 2014 elections, the SCW continued to implement the political empowerment program for Bahraini women, as a continuous program, with national expertise. The program was able to achieve significant results, through the election of 3 women in the elected chamber of parliament and 3 other women in the municipal council.

The Supreme Council for Women from there, launched in February 2016 the Political Empowerment Program for Women “Electoral Program” for the duration (2016-2018) in partnership with the concerned organizations and specialists.

**Awards and Initiatives**

- **2006**: The Award of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa for the Empowerment of Bahraini Women, given every two years for the best ministry and governmental and private entity with regards to supporting and empowering working Bahraini women.
- **2012**: The Award of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa for the Empowerment of Bahraini Women in vocational and political associations, given every 4 years for the best political and vocational associations.
- **2010**: The Award of the Late Shaikha Hessa bint Salman Al-Khalifa for Voluntary Youth Work, to enhance the voluntary work and encourage the youth to innovate with regards to community service.
- **2011**: Honor Seal for Young Bahraini Women Entrepreneurs, to highlight the Bahraini young talents in entrepreneurship and their efforts and role in this vital field.
Bahraini Women’s Day is one of the pioneering initiatives by Her Royal Highness, and obtained the esteemed patronage of His Majesty the King in 2008. The celebration of this event coincided with the National Day and Accession Day. His Majesty the King delivered the National Day’s speech from the headquarters of the SCW, confirming His Majesty’s support to Bahraini women.

The slogan of this event (Read, Learned, Participated) driven from the first word in the Quran (Read), and then the task acquired by women (teaching Quranic verses), followed by their career progress in the education field, along with their participation at all levels.

Bahraini Women’s Day is considered one of the national events, aiming to highlight one of the key fields of work in which women achieved success. Also, to present the challenges, and the measures which can contribute to support the journey of women at all levels.
The SCW aims to become a specialized center of expertise in women’s affairs, through providing all the abilities for the Women Information Center to become the reference in what concerns Bahraini women, and a documentation center for all the information, studies and databases. In addition to, creating a library specialized in women's affairs to attract researchers in the field.

**Local Cooperation**

Local cooperation and coordination with the legislative, executive and judicial authorities and private sector entities, along with the relevant civil society organizations, and internationally with the relevant regional and international organizations:

- **Legislative Authority:** Establishing the coordination committee between the SCW and the legislative authority including members of the Nuwab (Council of Representatives) and Shura Councils.

- **Judicial Authority:** Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Supreme Judicial Council, aiming to enhance the cooperation between the two parties, in activating the specializations and provisions of opinion in the relevant issues, including draft laws transferred to the legislative authority before approval.

- **Executive Authority:** Cooperation through the national committee in charge of following up on the implementation of the national model for mainstreaming women's needs in the governmental work plan and equal opportunity committees.

- **Private Sector:** Signing cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding with private sector entities.
- **Civil society:** Establishing the cooperation committee between the SCW and women associations and committees. The SCW also signed a memorandum of understand with the Bahraini Women Union.
- **Youth Committee:** Establishing a youth committee aiming at developing a generation of youth, supporting women’s affairs and becoming leaders in women’s affairs.

- **International Cooperation**

In line with its specializations, the SCW works to enhance its partnership relations with many national machineries in Arab and International Countries, to benefit from the experience of these countries and exchange of expertise in the empowerment of women. The President of the Supreme Council for Women conducted a number of visits to these countries, where memorandums of understanding were signed to enhance mutual cooperation.
The Efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain in following-up the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

- The Kingdom of Bahrain signed the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 18 June 2002 and ratified the convention on 18 July 2002, and showed commitment towards this convention through conducting raising awareness campaigns regarding CEDAW and submitting in time the national periodic reports on the progress achieved towards implementing the convention's article, as well as following-up on the CEDAW committee's issues and concerns on these reports, with regards to eliminating discrimination against women as per the convention's articles.

- The Kingdom of Bahrain submitted the first and second periodic reports, as well as the supplementary report regarding CEDAW to the CEDAW committee. (2007-2008) The Kingdom also provided its responses with regard to the recommendations on nationality and family relationships.

- The Supreme Council for Women (SCW) forwarded the concluding remarks of the CEDAW committee after discussing the first and second periodic reports, as well as the supplementary report, to all the relevant ministries, civil society organizations and the legislative authority, in order to implement them.
• The SCW continues to coordinate with the civil society organizations, particularly women’s organizations and committees, in order to raise the awareness with regards to CEDAW and the concluding remarks, as well as to discuss the issues related to the convention.

• The SCW formed a national team in charge of following-up and implementing the CEDAW committee recommendations, with the membership of representatives of ministries and governmental institutions and civil society organizations, as well as the National Institution for Human Rights.

• The SCW also drafted the third periodic report regarding CEDAW in partnership with the national team and in coordination with the relevant entities to obtain the needed information and data, and to consult with them on the challenges and obstacles, and the current and future processes to address them. The SCW also coordinated with the National Institution for Human Rights, the legislative authority, Bahraini Women's Union and other women and vocational civil society organizations, to obtain their views and comments to be considered while drafting the third periodic report regarding the CEDAW.

• The Kingdom of Bahrain submitted the third national report regarding the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to the United Nations, in July 2011. The discussion of
the report will take place during the CEDAW committee session to be conducted in February 2014 in Geneva.

- The Kingdom of Bahrain received the CEDAW committee’s list of issues on the third periodic report, and submitted the written replies to the CEDAW committee on time, on 8 November 2013.

- The report was discussed on 11 February 2014 during the 57th session of the CEDAW committee by the delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain chaired by H.E. Dr. Shaikha Mariam bint Hasan Al-Khalifa, Deputy-President of the SCW. The discussion included the most prominent measures undertaken with regards to the convention by the Kingdom of Bahrain during the period between submitting the third periodic report in July 2011 until the discussion day.

- The committee praised in its concluding observations published in 28 February 2014 the distinguished level of the delegation and the specializations of the delegation members, and their performance during the discussion. The committee also praised the positive progress of the Kingdom of Bahrain since the submission of the first and second reports in 2008, and welcomed the efforts of the country with regards to implementing the articles of the convention.

- The General-Secretariat conducted a press conference on 12 March 2014 on the results of the discussion of the third report of the Kingdom of Bahrain on CEDAW, with the presence of the national delegation to discuss the report, and presented the concluding observations to the official and governmental entities, legislative authority and civil society organizations.

- The SCW work is based on a work plan to implement the concluding observations in partnership with all the relevant entities; governmental entities and civil society organizations in compliance with the rulings of Sharia laws, the principles of the National Action Charter and the texts of
the constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, while preserving the sovereignty of the state, along with fulfilling the commitments of the Kingdom of Bahrain at the international level.

- The Kingdom of Bahrain is keen to submit international reports related to the status of women, such as the reports regarding Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, Millennium Development Goals, Human Development Report and the Universal Periodic Report (UPR).
- The Kingdom of Bahrain assures that the participation and commitments on the international level, including submitting national reports and responses to the CEDAW committee, are important mechanisms in order to improve the work of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) to further enhance the empowerment of women in all levels.
Reservations of the Kingdom of Bahrain regarding the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Decree Law No. (70) for the year 2014 regarding the amendment of decree law No. (5) for the year 2002 on the ratification of CEDAW which included the reformulation of some of the reservations of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the convention, stated that the Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to implement the articles of CEDAW (2), (15) paragraph (4) and (16) without prejudice to Islamic Sharia rules.

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<th>Current Reservation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article 2</strong></td>
<td>States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women</td>
<td><strong>The Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to implement articles 2, 15 paragraph (4) and 16 of the convention without prejudice to the provisions of Islamic Sharia</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Article 16</strong></td>
<td>States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women</td>
<td><strong>in so far as it is incompatible with the provisions of the Islamic Sharia</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Article 15 Para 4</strong></td>
<td>States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile</td>
<td><strong>Article 15 Para 4</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Article 9 Para 2</strong></td>
<td>States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children</td>
<td><strong>This reservation is linked with approving amendments on the Nationality Law, to grant children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men, the right to obtain the nationality.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Article 29 Para 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court</td>
<td><strong>Article 29 Para 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>To maintain the reservation</strong></td>
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Legislative Achievements

2004
- The issuance of Law No. (11) for the year 2004 for mandatory pre-marital health checks that led to the reduction of hereditary blood diseases.

2005
- The amendment of the Passport Law: (the deletion of the article that required the approval of the husband for the wife to apply for a passport) Married women can apply for passports without the need for their husbands’ permission.
- The amendment of Law No. (13) for the year 2005 to alter a number of civil and commercial articles of the Evidence Law promulgated by Decree Law No. (14) for the year 1996 to make the process of proving a women’s financial contribution towards the family during marriage easier and more efficient.
- Amend the law of Sharia court procedures so that Sharia cases are given “urgent” status ensuring that the cases are fast-tracked.
- The issuance of Law No. (34) for the year 2005 to establish the Alimony Fund and the amendment of this law by Law No. (33) for the year 2009 to include the children of Bahraini women who are married to non-Bahrainis to benefit from this fund provided that the woman and her children reside in Bahrain.

2006
- The amendment of Law No. (18) for the year 2006 that governs social security to ensure that children of Bahraini women who are married to non-Bahrainis are treated like their Bahraini counterparts with respect to welfare services.
**2009**

- The issuance of Law No. (19) for the year 2009 that issued the Family Law (Part 1) that governs family relations, marriage, divorce and child custody, etc.
- The issuance of Law No. (35) for the year 2009 to treat the non-Bahraini wife of a Bahraini and the children of Bahraini women who are married to a non-Bahraini like a Bahraini citizen with regards to fees for government provided health and education services and residency fees.

**2010**

- The issuance of Law No. (19) for the year 2010 to amend article no. (80) of the Social Security Law promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (24) for the year 1976 to state that grandchildren of a deceased grandparent from either parent have the right to their grandparent’s previously entitled pension as it would have been given to their parent.

**2012**

- The issuance of Law no. (36) for 2012 on the promulgation of the Labor Law in the Private Sector, regarding the implementation of the law provisions on working men and women in an equal manner without discrimination as per their job positions.

**2014**

- Approval of His Majesty the King of Law No. (47) for the year 2014 to amend some rules of the cassation court law issued by law decree No. (8) for the year 1989 to allow cassation with regards to the final sentences of the Sharia courts, equal to sentences of civil court, with the exception of divorce cases.
- Issuance of Royal Decree No. (59) for the year 2014, regarding the conditions of the appointment of Shura Council members, including the second article text on the adequate representation of women.
- Issuance of Decree Law No. (70) for the year 2014 to amend some of the rulings of the Decree Law No. (5) for the year 2002 regarding the ratification of CEDAW, including the reformulation of some of the reservations of the Kingdom of Bahrain, stating that the Kingdom is
committed to implement the articles 2, 15 paragraph 4 and 16 without prejudice to Islamic Sharia Law.

2015

- Issuance of Decree Law No. (22) for the year 2015 amending the provisions of the proceedings law before the Sharia courts issued ensuring the mandatory referral of the domestic disputes to the Family Reconciliation Office before being presented to Sharia Courts.
- Issuance of Decree No. (23) for the year 2015 amending the provisions of the Court of Cassation law issued, which accepts the appeal to the Court of Cassation with judgments issued by Sharia courts.
- Issuance of Decree No. (24) for the year 2015 amending the provisions of the Judicial Authority Law issued No. (42) for the year 2002.
- Issuance of Law No. (17) for the year 2015 with regards to the protection from domestic violence. In that respect, the Supreme Council for Women launched in November 2015, the National Strategy for the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence.
Achievements at Ministerial Decisions and Circulars Level

2003
- Offer social allowance to women employees.

2004
- Decision no. (12) for the year 2004 that states the right of Bahraini women to benefit from state provided housing services and grants divorced and widowed women the right to apply for housing services from the state.
- Establish women complaints offices in each governorate.

2005
- Allocate social centers to be the location for parents to meet with their children in cases of parent separation.

2006
- Decision no. (28) for the year 2006 concerning social security that added the categories of widows, divorcees, abandoned wives, and unmarried women to the beneficiary group.
- Amendment of marriage contract template to grant the two parties the right to state special conditions to organize marriage rules between them, especially the conditions which women are allowed to state such as accommodation, education, job and financial contribution.

2008
- Decision No. (1) for the year 2008 regarding the equal treatment of diplomatic women to their men counterparts with regards to allowances.
- Decision No. (56) for the year 2008 regarding allowing the employment of two people for the employment of one Bahraini woman in order to encourage the employment of Bahraini women in the labor force.

2011
- The issuance of a circular from the Ministry of Finance regarding appropriations, regulations and instructions for the implementation of the state budget for the fiscal years 2011-2012 that included a special provision regarding the application of the principle of equal opportunities and gender sensitive budgeting.
2013
- Cabinet’s order no. (77) for the year 2013 regarding the approval of the regulations on the salaries and allowances for the employees of the Civil Service Bureau, granting married women employees the right to receive the same allowance as married men employees, which guarantees equality between men and women in terms of social allowance.
- Decision No. (16) for the year 2013 regarding specifying the duties, occasions and jobs that women are not permitted to work in during the night time.

2014
- Cabinet’s decision on 11 January 2014 on the approval of draft law to amend some of the provisions of the nationality law of 1963, to allow the children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men to obtain the Bahraini nationality according to certain conditions, and to transfer it to the legislative authority according to the constitutional procedures.
- Cabinet’s decision on 19 January 2014 on the approval of the representatives’ proposal to establish a sports center for women.
- Decision of civil service bureau No. (4) for the year 2014 to establish permanent equal opportunity committees at all ministries and governmental entities.
- Issuance of a circular by the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain to ensure the approval of the requests of women in all financial institutions to open accounts for their children, in light of numerous irregularities observed by the Central Bank. This had stated as a condition for the continuation of the license and the adoption of the Central Bank of the financial institutions operating in Bahrain.

2015
- The issuance of the Decision No. (84) for the year 2015 by the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs regarding the establishment of the Family Reconciliation Office which defined the rules and procedures necessary to carry out the functions of the office, ensuring the mandatory referral of family disputes to the office before being presented to Sharia courts.
- The issuance of Decision No. (909) for the year 2015 dated 1 October, 2015 by the Minister of Housing which stated in Article (3) that divorced, abandoned, widowed women without children, or unmarried orphan women, are granted temporary housing.
Conclusion

Through this publication, the Supreme Council for Women offers its career spanning over 15 years within the framework of the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women which has been approved by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, in 2013.

The council headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of the King of Bahrain, seeks through the implementation of the terms of reference in the Royal Orders for which it was created to achieve the vision of equal partnership to build a sustainable competitive society through women empowerment and the integration of Bahraini women’s needs in development program. That would be in order to ensure the sustainability of family stability, interdependence, principle of equal opportunities, for the competitiveness of Bahraini women and the continuity of lifelong learning. Moreover, it confirms that the multiplicity and diversity of the options that are accessible to Bahraini women to improve the quality of life of Bahraini women in the framework of supporting legislation and policies in addition to the integration with allies and partners in women’s issues to build women’s capacities and be of a center of expertise in Women's Affairs according to global standards with national capabilities.

The SCW works according to scientific methodologies, to achieve equal partnership between all sectors in Bahraini society, and to ensure that compatibility between the responsibilities and obligations of all parties responsible in the country.

The responsibility of the Supreme Council for Women is prioritizing the needs of Bahraini women at the forefront of its word in order to ensure her presence in the process of sustainable development. Holistically, women represent half the community, and have the capacity, determination and ambition for their country’s progress and development.